

Identification Notes for wildlife law enforcement

CATEGORY: MAMMALS

Names: Perissodactyla: Equidae
Equus grevyi Grevy's zebra
Equus zebra Mountain zebra
 (Cape mountain, Hartmann's)
Equus burchelli Plains zebra
 (up to 27 names including:
 Grant's, Chapman's,
 Burchell's, amaraland, Bohrn's,
 Selous's, bontequagga)

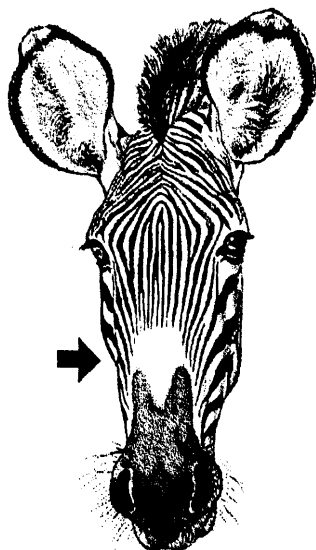
PROBLEM:

Trophy shipments may include dry, stiff, salt-encrusted hides or processed hides packaged so the full complement of diagnostic features is not available for inspection. The face or the rump may generally be inspected for features that will distinguish the three zebra species, however. The following keys will identify adult specimens either from facial coloring and stripe enumeration, or from rump stripe patterning.

Key to adult specimens based on facial features

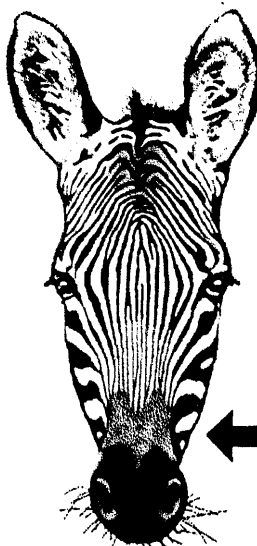
- 1 White band above muzzle, making clear demarcation between facial stripes and grayish nose; stripes between eyes thin, ranging from 13-16 between eyes *E. grevyi*
- 1' Not as above 2..
- 2 Facial stripes emerge from brown area above muzzle becoming darker towards the forehead; stripes thin, ranging from 9-16 between eyes *E. zebra*
- 2' Facial stripes emerge from black muzzle with no brown areas (except in juveniles: see note); stripes tick. ranging from 8-12 between eyes *E. burchelli*

Equus grevyi



1

Equus zebra



2

Equus burchelli

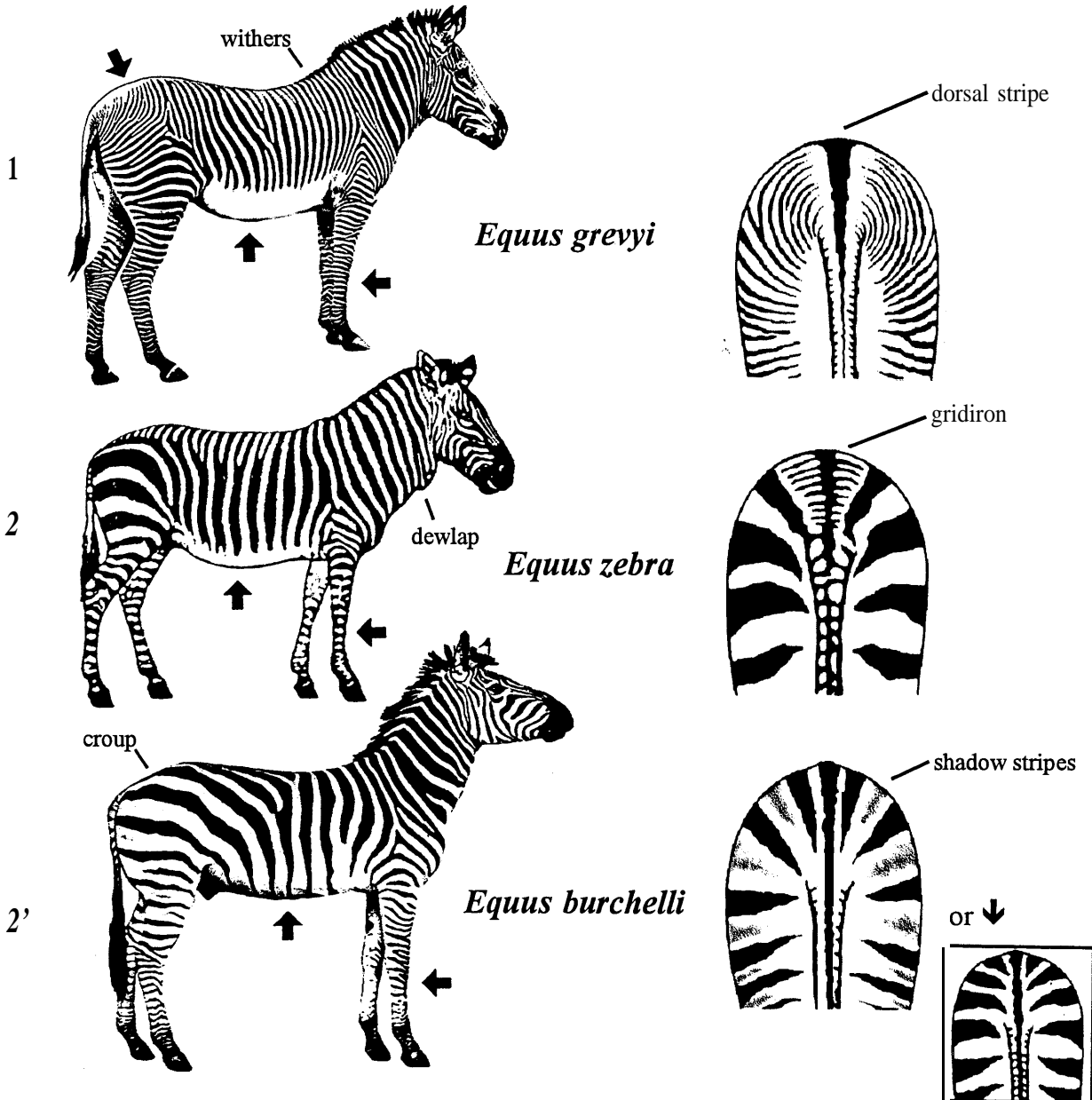


2'

Note: Most juveniles have brownish body and facial stripes and will also have thin hides with fuzzy coats. Subadults maybe almost as large as adults, but coats will have longer, softer hairs and cheek stripes will be more brown than black. Length of mane is not a diagnostic characteristic.

Key to adult specimens based on rump and body patterning

- 1 Dorsal stripe flanked by white, and **concentric** dark croup stripes encircle the rump around root of tail. Stripes thin all over body. Belly white, lower legs striped to hooves *E. grevyi*
- 1' Not as above 2
- 2 Dorsal stripes flanked by perpendicular bars arranged in a "gridiron" pattern on rump. Hairs on dorsal stripe from croup to withers grow in a forward direction. An extra fold of skin ("dewlap") on throat. Belly white and lower legs striped to hooves.. . . . *E. zebra*
- 2' Broad croup stripes flow from dorsal stripe and back of legs to groin, maintaining parallel pattern from mid-body to rear. Hairs on dorsal stripe grow normally. No dewlap. Belly maybe striped (most commonly) or unstriped (white); if white, lower legs will also be white. Some subspecies have faint dark stripes ("shadow stripes") between the croup stripes..... *E. burchelli*



REFERENCES:

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 Grubb, P. (1981) *Equus burchelli*. Mammalian Species No. 157, *The American Society of Mammalogists*.
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